

# **Milk River Wildlife Management Area (WMA)**

## **2004 Small Mammal Trapping and Species Inventory Report**

Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP)

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Trapping and species inventory was conducted at three areas of the Milk River WMA in Phillips County in northeastern Montana, approximately 20 miles northeast of Malta. Those areas were Dodson Creek, Sleeping Buffalo, and Dodson Dam.

The management goal of the WMA is to provide habitat for wildlife, particularly waterfowl, and to provide the public with recreational opportunities. Wildlife-viewing is popular year-round at the WMA, as white-tailed deer, raptors, and numerous small mammals are present year-round. The Milk River WMA is also an important migratory stop for shorebirds, waterfowl, and songbirds, and these can be observed in the spring and fall. Hunting is also allowed for deer, upland game birds and waterfowl.

### **Findings: 82 Captures of 11 Species**

- Small mammal trapping lines (Table 3)
  - 72 captures of 9 species
- Large Fox Cage (Table 4)
  - 5 captures of 1 species
- Mistnet (Table 4)
  - 4 captures of 2 species
- Funnel (Table 4)
  - 1 capture of 1 species

**Table 1. Trapping Location and Habitat Type**

Location #	Name	Habitat
1	line 1	Riparian
2	line 2	Upland Grassland
3	line 3	Riparian
4	line 4	Upland Grassland
5	line 5	Upland Grassland (Alfalfa)
6	line 6	Marsh Edge
7	line 7	Marsh Edge (Willows)
8	line 8	Upland Grassland
9	line 9	Marsh Edge
10	line 10	Marsh Edge
11	line 11	Sagebrush Grassland
12	line 12	Sagebrush Grassland
13	Netsite1	Riparian
14	Funnel1	Riparian



Little Brown Myotis



Western Jumping Mouse

**Table 2. Capture Summary**

Species Captured	Trapline												Mistnet	Funnel	Large Cages	Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
Little Brown Myotis													3			3
Silver-Haired Bat													1			1
Deer Mouse	8			1	13	5	4	2	2	2	3	4				44
Northern Grasshopper Mouse											2					2
Meadow Vole	1				1	1				3						6
Long-Tailed Vole	1															1
Prairie Vole	1															1
Western Jumping Mouse							1									1
Striped Skunk					2		2	3				1			5	13
Unknown Bird							1							1		2
Unknown Shrew	1					7										8
Total Captures	12	0	0	1	16	13	8	5	2	5	5	5	4	1	5	82

**Table 3. Trapline Summary**

Trap Type	Trapline												Total Trap Nights	Total Captures	Captures/100 Trap Nights	Number of Species
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
Snap, small (victor)	47	47	46	48	42	38	34	45	47	49	43	35	521	8	1.5	3
Snap, med (museum special)	47	49	48	41	42	41	39	44	40	48	41	43	523	27	5.2	6
Snap, large (rat)	10	10	10	10	10	9	10	10	9	10	9	9	116	1	0.9	1
Cage, small (sherman)	50	49	47	50	49	43	46	50	49	49	47	41	570	22	3.9	3
Cage, med (skunk)	10	10	10	9	10	9	9	9	10	5	3	3	97	8	8.2	1
Pitfall	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	300	6	2	3
Total Trap Nights	189	190	186	183	178	165	163	183	180	186	168	156	2127			
Total Captures	12	0	0	1	16	13	8	5	2	5	5	5	72			
Captures/100 Trap Nights	6.3	0	0	0.5	9	9.1	4.9	3.8	1.1	2.7	3	3.8	3.4			
Number of Species	5	0	0	1	3	3	4	2	1	2	2	2				

**Table 4. Trapsite Summary**

Trap Type	Total Trap Nights	Total Captures	Captures/100 Trap Nights	Number of Species
Cage, large	55	5	9.1	1
Mistnet	6	4	66.7	2
Funnel	5	1	20	1

**Table 5. Miscellaneous Species Observed**

Pied-billed Grebe  
 Eared Grebe  
 American White Pelican  
 Great Blue Heron  
 Canada Goose  
 Mallard  
 Northern Harrier  
 Red-tailed Hawk  
 American Kestrel  
 Sage Grouse  
 American Coot  
 Killdeer  
 Greater Yellowlegs  
 Solitary Sandpiper  
 Willet  
 Common Snipe  
 California Gull  
 Black Tern  
 Mourning Dove  
 Western Screech-owl  
 Common Nighthawk  
 Northern Flicker  
 Western Wood-pewee  
 Eastern Kingbird  
 American Robin  
 Gray Catbird  
 Brown Thrasher  
 Sprague's Pipit  
 Cedar Waxwing  
 Loggerhead Shrike  
 Yellow Warbler

**Cedar Waxwing****Western Kingbird**



## Misc. Species Continued

Common Yellowthroat  
Vesper Sparrow  
Red-winged Blackbird  
Yellow-headed Blackbird  
Baltimore Oriole  
American Goldfinch  
Mountain Cottontail  
Richardson's Ground Squirrel  
Muskrat  
Red Fox  
Mink  
Pronghorn  
Painted Turtle  
Racer  
Common Garter Snake



Eastern Kingbird



Red Fox Kits

Tom Warren



Franklin's Gull

Photo Credits: MFWP staff unless otherwise noted.

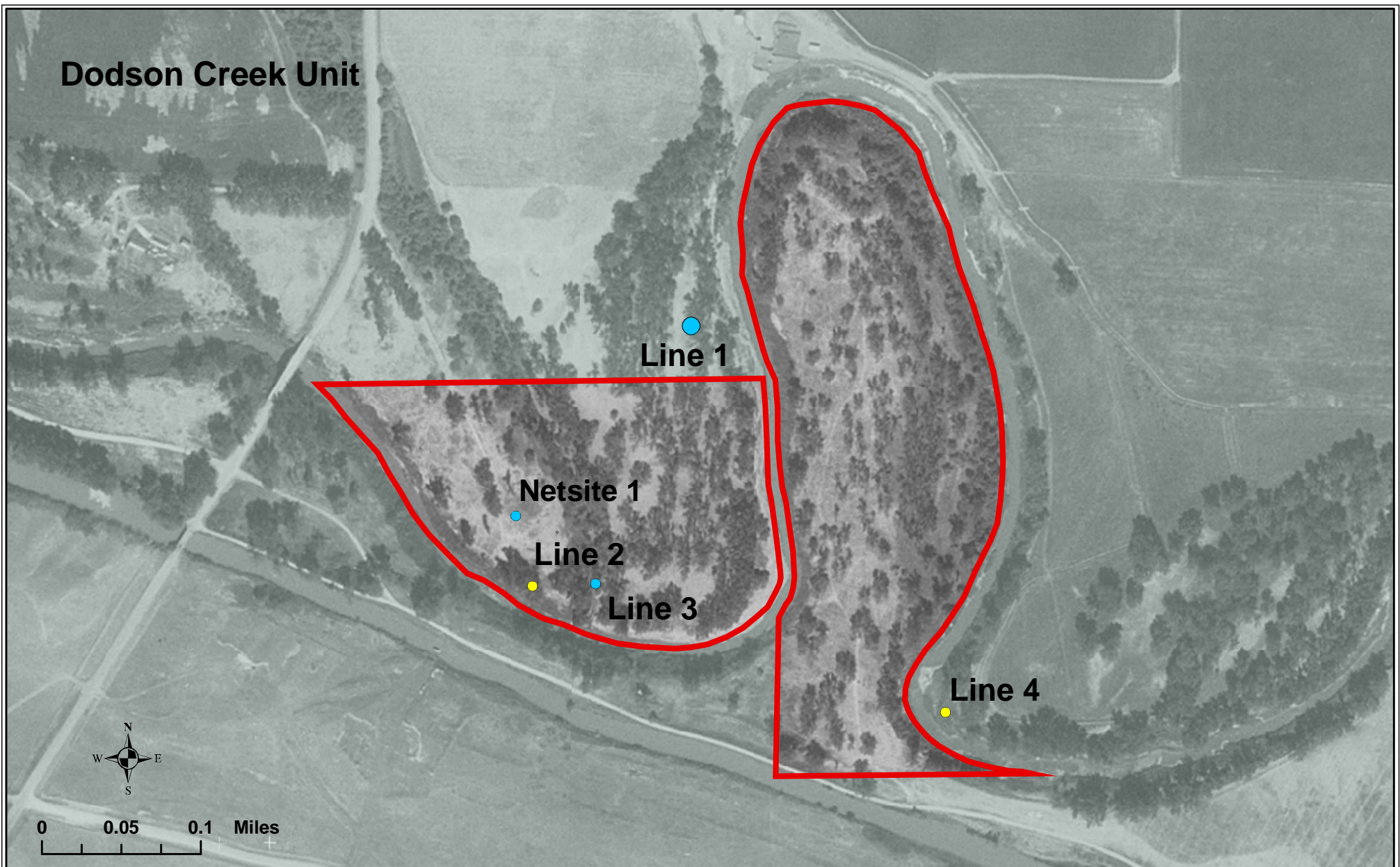


Figure 1:

## Milk River WMA

Small Mammal Survey Site



**Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks**

### Trapping Locations

General Landcover (Symbol color)

● Agriculture

● Barren / Badlands

● Broadleaf Forest

● Conifer Forest

● Grassland

● Riparian

● Shrub Grassland

\* Not all landcover types were sampled at all sites.

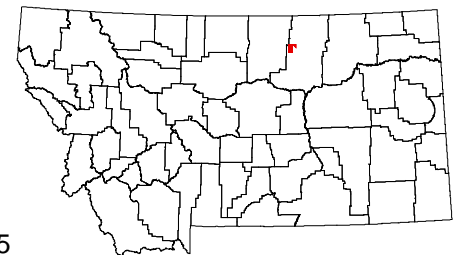
Captures/100 trapnights (Symbol size)

● 0 - 5

● >5 - 15

● >15

\* only calculated for trap lines





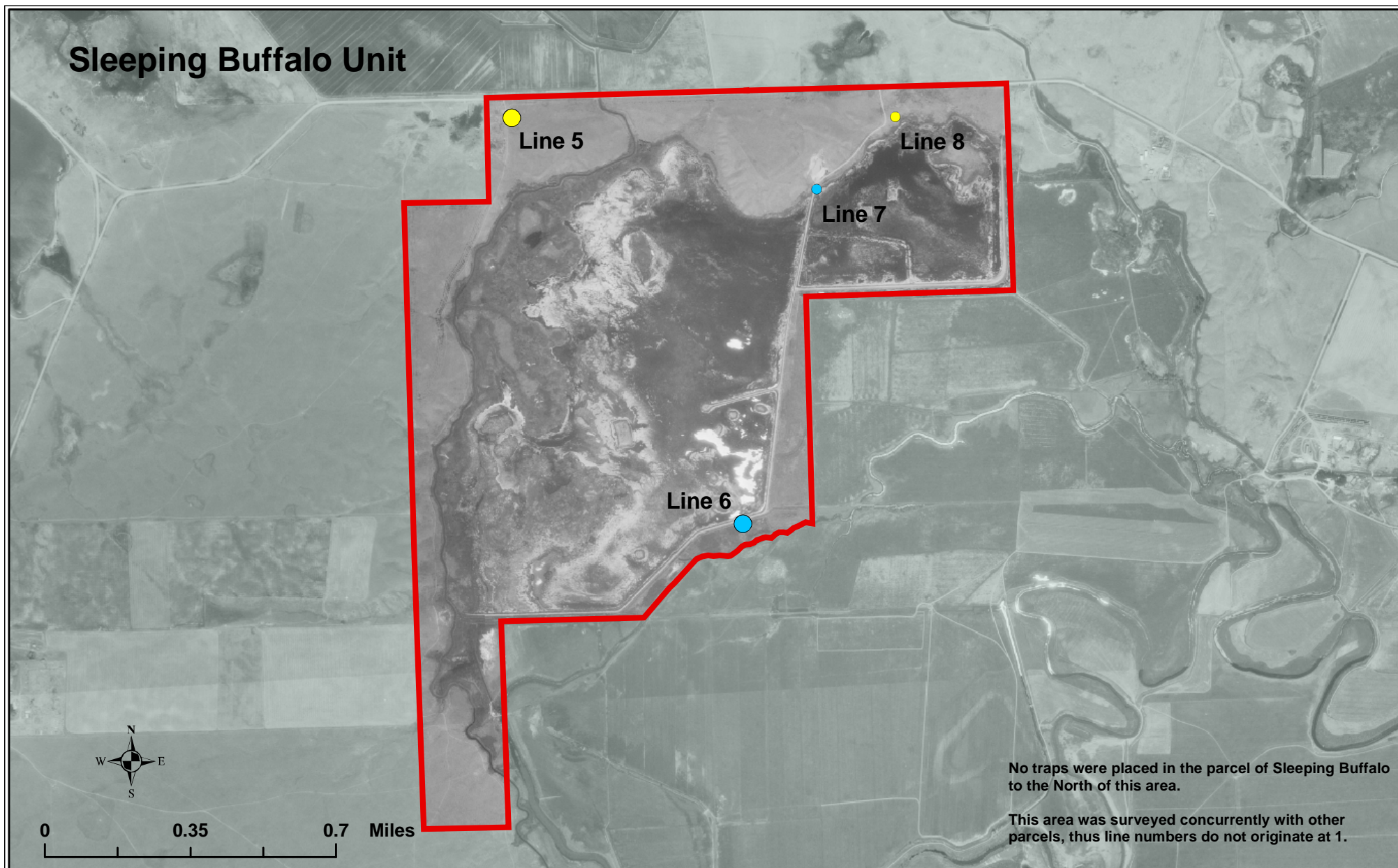


Figure 2:

## Milk River WMA

Small Mammal Survey Site



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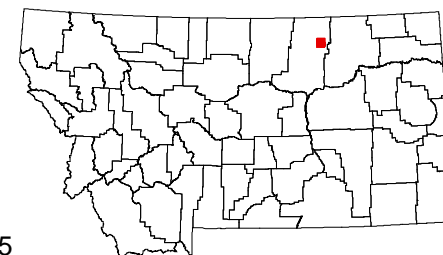
Captures/100 trapnights (Symbol size)

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● 0 - 5

● >5 - 15

● >15



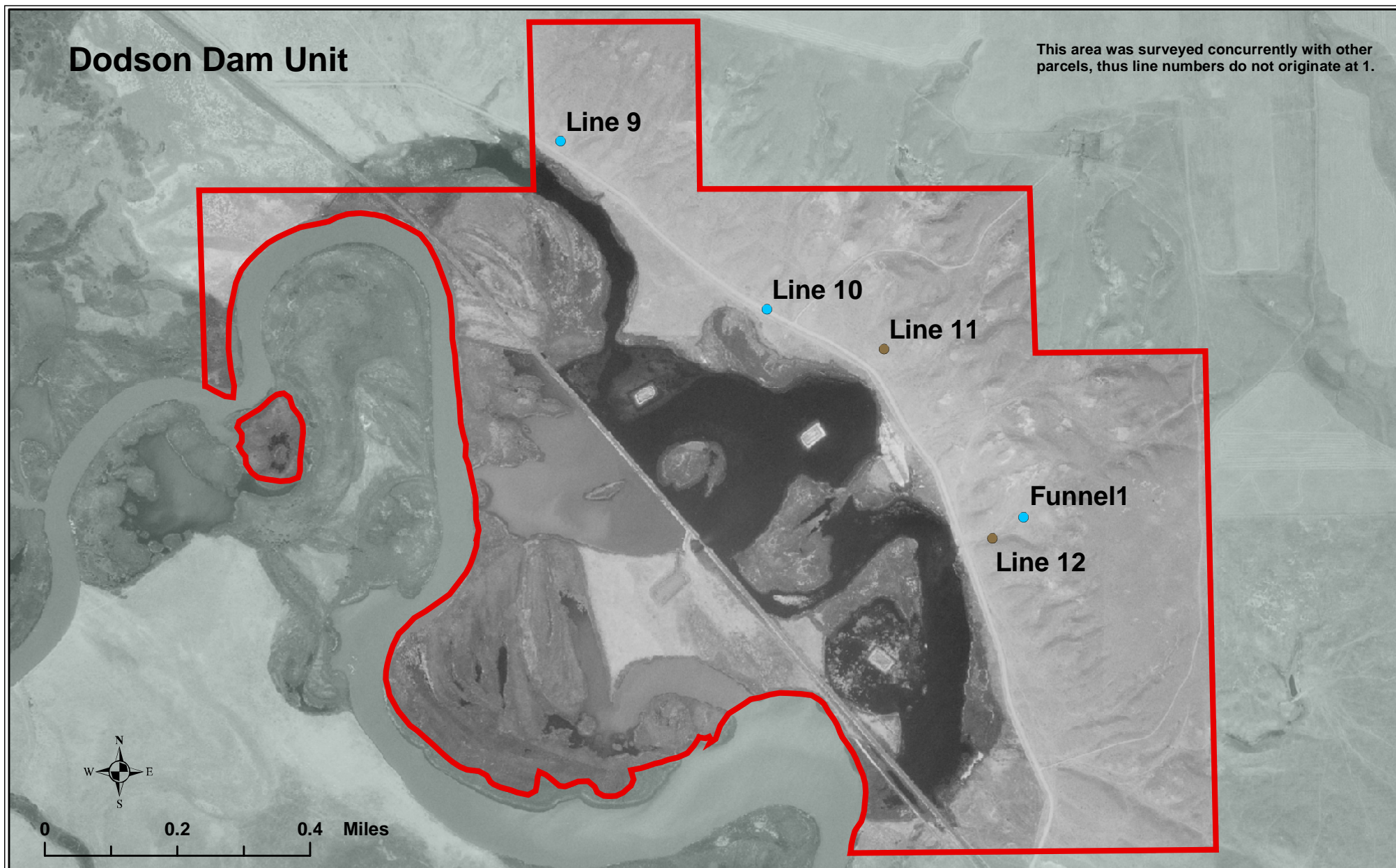


Figure 3:

## Milk River WMA

Small Mammal Survey Site



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